(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to control the prices of these medicines and render these within the reach of common man?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) and (b) Under the Drug Price Control Order, 1987 homoeopathic drugs are not controlled for prices. Moreover, no specific instance of manifold increase in prices of such drugs has come to the notice of the Government.

Ban on Destruction of female foetus by Medical practitioners

806. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government are aware that tests for sex determination are being carried out by medical practitioners to destroy the female foetus ;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to check this malice ;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act to put a complete ban on destruction of female foetus and determination of sex ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) We are aware about the sex determination test being carried out by medical practitioners. However, the nexus between this test and female foeticide has not been conclusively proved.

(b) to (d) A proposal for legislation relating to Sex Determination and for amendment of the MTP Act, 1971 is under consideration of the Government. Final decision in the matter has yet to be taken.

Landing Facilities at Airports

807. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a deatth of landing facilities in most of the airports for smooth landing of sophisticated aeroplanes and aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the steps being proposed by Government to modernise it in view of recent air disasters of high magnitude?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN):(a) and (b)While our airports have the essential ground facilities it is true that many of our airport, require modernisation and upgradation. Such upgradation and modernisation of ground facilities is an ongoing process involving heavy investment in equipment, manpower and maintenance. The upgradation and modernisation of the ground facilities available at our airports is constantly receiving the attention of the Government.

Closure of loss incurring public sector undertakings

808. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering the

closure of loss incurring public sector undertakings which are a burden on the public exchequer;

(b) if so, what are the details of the public sector undertakings which are likely to be closed; and

(c) if not, how does Government propose to make these units viable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have not adopted any general policy on the closure of public sector undertakings incurring losses. Such a course of action is taken by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department on a case to case basis.

(c) Various measures are taken to improve profitability like change in product-mix-technology upgradation, improved maintenance management practices, energy conservation, modernisation and rehabilitation, organisational restructuring etc.

Agitation by medical representatives of IDPL

809. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical representatives working in I.D.P.L. have been agitating against the alleged corruption and inefficiency existing at the higher and middle management levels in the company and;

(b) if so, what are the specific allegations and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) Some medical representatives of IDPL have made certain allegations against the management of the company.

The allegations include corruption in the matter of transactions with Karnataka ESIC, use of agents by the Company for its institutional business, illegal manufacture of 'IDISULES' and getting drug formulations made by some other company.

The allegation regarding corruption in the matter of purchase of drugs by Karnataka ESIC is under investigation by the C. B. I. According to IDPL, the company has been having agents for over a decade for its institutional sales, which is also the practice in the industry as well as the other public sector companies.

Improvement of Airport Infrastructure

810. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite according of priority to airline fleet upgradation, growth in airport and air route infrastructural facilities, there is still a wide gap in these areas due to the increase in air traffic and transport;

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to keep pace with the increasing requirements to improve the airport infrastructure; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Modernisation of equipment and upgradation of facilities at airports either by replacement of old technology equipment or by provision of new facilities is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner, depending upon